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WORLD'S NEWS DAILY**DANYSZ BACILLUS**
AND RAT KILLINGDr. Currie Tells of the Bacillus
and What It Will
Not Do.

"The Danyasz bacillus has its use and purpose in the war for the extermination of rats?" said Dr. Currie, of the United States Marine Hospital service, who is a bacteriological authority on the rat. "But it alone will not exterminate the rat. It can be made to serve a purpose which nothing else will, and it can be used where other things can not be. But any hope that by it a disease can be introduced among rats which they will spread among themselves to their own extermination, is not at all warranted by experience."

"Dr. Danyasz bacillus was used in San Francisco for two years, from 1903 to 1905. For a long time I was the only one in the service who had any faith in it. But our experience there demonstrated that it was an efficient agency in the fight against rats, and in some degree our experience demonstrated its limitations."

"One of the difficulties in its use is its uncertainty. One tube of the bacillus may prove very effective and the next two or three be entirely innocuous. There seems no way of remedying this. Dr. Danyasz himself says it is uncertain. It is probably because of this uncertainty that such contradictory ideas regarding it have been entertained. Some experimenters receiving an effective tube have conceived an extravagant opinion of its effectiveness, and others receiving ineffective ones, have adopted the opinion that it is of no value."

"The bacillus as an aid in the extermination of rats is the result of a very ingenious adaptation or inversion of the principle of the survival of the fittest. The bacillus itself is the bacillus of a disease of mice which very slightly affects rats—most rats not at all. But Dr. Danyasz by a very ingenious process has increased its virus power. His process is something like this: He secures a large number of healthy rats and having made a culture of the bacillus from the diseased mouse he inoculates a certain number of his healthy rats. The first of these that sicken is immediately taken out of that cage and put into another cage of healthy rats. The first of these to sicken is taken out and put into a second cage of healthy rats. The process is continued for six times. In each case, of course, it is the weakest rat, the one most susceptible to the disease, through which the bacillus is propagated. By the time the sixth is reached the bacillus has acquired a virulence sufficient to make it a deadly disease to rats in general. A culture of the bacillus from the last rat is made and sealed in tubes, and this is the commercial form in which it is made and distributed. The contents of these tubes must be used within three weeks or they become innocuous. That is why it would be difficult to get it here for use. It is made by the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and now by the Pasteur Institute in Chicago. It was from Chicago that we got it for use in San Francisco. But it would be difficult to get it from there within a short enough time to be available."

"H. Hackfeld & Co. received a quantity of what is called 'Ratin' from Denmark a few days ago. This is the commercial name of what I think is the article being used in Denmark, of which mention is made in the World's Work, quoted in the Advertiser Wednesday. But it has been too long on the way, and though I have used it on some rats I have here, it has not so far affected them in the least."

"The method of using the Danyasz bacillus is this. Into a beef broth culture the contents of one of the tubes is placed. The next morning the bacilli have multiplied to the capacity of the culture. As much corn meal is mixed with this culture as it will absorb and then this is placed where the rats will get it. If it is eaten by the rats within a few hours, it is effective against them. If it is not eaten within a few hours, it loses its virulence. A second culture from the first, loses its virulence. That is one of the peculiarities of it. It has to be renewed constantly from the virus that has passed through the succession of rats."

"In San Francisco this Danyasz bacillus was used exclusively in the fourteen blocks comprising the Chinatown of before the earthquake. We went over those fourteen blocks once a week for two years. We could go into a Chinese house and ask to be allowed to place it; they would object saying they had children and they were afraid. In such cases I would eat some of it right in their presence to show that it was not dangerous."

"Our experience showed that of the rats which ate the prepared stuff, a very large proportion died. How far they infected one another, our experiments did not altogether show. But appar-

ently there was considerable spread of the infection from one rat to another. For at one time we desired to make experiments which required healthy rats. To get them we trapped rats all over the territory from Market street to the North Beach and from Powell street to the Ferry. This, of course, included Chinatown, but also an area many times as large. A very considerable proportion of the rats we thus caught we found infected. But how much of this infection was due to contact with infected rats, and how much to rats going to Chinatown to feed and eating the preparation there, and how much to the distribution of rats infected in Chinatown and migrating to other parts, it was impossible to say.

"Of course, not all of the rats who eat the Danyasz preparation die. Probably twenty per cent of them recover, and are thereafter immune. Of those which contract the infection from contact, not all die. Where healthy rats are put in the same cage with infected rats, about twenty per cent become infected. But it is noticed that when healthy rats are put in a cage with infected ones, they keep as far away from the infected ones as the room in the cage will permit. Of course this is not far. But in nature they are able to keep farther away, and so in nature probably a smaller percentage of rats would become infected by contact."

"Thus it is idle to expect the extermination of rats by the spread of a disease among them. It can be made an aid but not a sole or an easy means. Take the disease among mice from which Dr. Danyasz developed his bacillus. It is a natural disease among mice, and yet it has not exterminated them, for the reason that some escape it altogether and some recover from it and are henceforth immune from it. Take smallpox, a natural disease among mankind. In Queen Elizabeth's time most people suffered from it at some time during their life. Probably one in three of those who took it died. But the race survived."

"So it is with diseases of animals. This bacillus is not one natural to rats, hence its virulence rapidly diminishes when passed on from one to another. Hence it can not be expected to exterminate the race by spread among them. The only natural disease the rat is known to have is the plague. If we could spread that among them it would be the nearest approach to an exterminating disease. But, of course, to spread plague among rats would be to spread it among men."

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LAST OF PALACE OF ST. CLOUD.

The last vestige of the famous old palace of St. Cloud has been removed by the pulling down of the railway station reserved for distinguished and royal visitors to the Emperor Napoleon III and the Empress Eugenie when in residence in St. Cloud. As will be remembered by many a tourist, the little station was thickly overgrown with grass and weeds. Birds had built their nests in the imperial waiting room and lusty young trees had grown up in the reserved space around the station. No train had stopped at it for thirty-seven years. A Paris correspondent writes that the last occasion on which the station was used was on the day of the French declaration of war on Germany, when the officers of the imperial guards were conveyed by special train to take luncheon with the Emperor.—Boston Transcript.

VACATION TIME.

And then the Nippon "study boy," with his shining morning face, creeping unwillingly from school.—S. F. Call.

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PLATO IN EGYPT.

Plato in Egypt, so the legend goes:
And with the words the picture rises clear,—
The scorching, boundless sands, the deep-browed seer
Strayed from fair Greece in search of One who knows.
Paused he not here, where Abou Simbel shows
In tranquil majesty, without a peer.
A strange stone smile, benignant, calm, austere,
Soulless and satisfied, past joys or woes?
Did he, the wide-souled, who could deeply pry
Into the Cause, could sift the False and True,—
Did Plato ponder here the riddle why Man frets and seeks? Had Abou found the clue?
Did Plato, too, depart hence with a sigh,
While still the stone lips smiled as if they knew?
—E. Boyle O'Reilly, in Putnam's Monthly.

Speaking of the methods adopted by some of the unions throughout the country in righting their wrongs Senator Dolliver of Iowa says it reminds him of an Irishman who, upon hearing for the first time the braying of a donkey, remarked, after waiting for the last discordant note to die away, "Faith, you are no doubt in great pain, but I had more sympathy for you before you complained."

H. C.

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